

*Oral Questions*

STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ADVISER

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, to inform the Minister who this American gentleman is I am told that Mr. Santos is, in fact, the senior adviser to the key U.S. Senate Finance Committee, senior adviser in trade, a rather important position I am sure the Minister will agree. Just a few moments ago I talked with the man, following this report, and he has confirmed with me that it is his strong belief that the U.S. lumber industry does believe it has a commitment from the United States President to take action independently of these hearings.

In terms of the documents that were released recently by our Government on trade talks certain important passages are left out about the course of action that the U.S. Government might be—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Could the Minister tell us if a passage that was left out has any reference to this kind of independent action by the United States President?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the Leader of the New Democratic Party found out who the gentleman was before he talked to him. Second, I think it is fair to say there was no reference to that unlikely eventuality in any of the matters to which the Hon. Member is referring.

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT MAKE INQUIRIES

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, given the importance of this to the 300,000 Canadians working in the industry, will the Minister now, today, get in touch with Washington to find out if the American President made such a deal with U.S. Senators, because it could affect thousands of jobs unfairly in this country?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, what is important is that we have a guarantee of due process. We have a guarantee that this court-like procedure will be conducted in a court-like way. Canada's case will be judged on its merits, not on the basis of politics. Last week the New Democratic Party was inviting us to have the Prime Minister intervene in a way that would create a precedent of political intervention. Had we done that, that would have opened the way for U.S. Senators to interfere themselves in that court-like proceeding. That would have hurt Canada's interests. We want to protect Canada's interests, and that will be done if due process is respected, as we expect it to be.

U.S. PROCESS—POSSIBLE RESIDENTIAL INTERVENTION

**Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is it not correct that Mr. Len Santos, senior trade adviser to the U.S. Senate Finance Committee, said that, even if there is due process, after it is over the President is going to intervene? If that is the case isn't the whole American process meaningless and part of some complicity involving this

Government and the Americans to sell out 100,000 softwood lumber jobs in Canada?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, that question has been answered. Let me now put a question to the House Leader of the Liberal Party. When is the Liberal Party going to repudiate their president for her unwarranted attacks upon the Governor General of Canada?

● (1425)

SECURITY OF CANADIAN WORKERS

**Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, all that this shows is that the Government is incapable of answering the simplest question on this crucial matter. Will the Secretary of State for External Affairs publicly state right now that the hundreds of thousands of workers in the Canadian softwood lumber industry will not be held hostage so that the Prime Minister can lift up his tattered ego with respect to enabling these trade talks to go on? Will he say that these hundreds of thousands of workers will not be held hostage to the success of these foundering free trade talks?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, our principal preoccupation is to protect the security and the opportunity of those Canadian workers and others who are threatened by protectionism in the United States. That is precisely why we are involved in trade negotiations that we hope will lead to a better system than that which, after years of administration by the Liberal Party, leaves Canadians exposed to the kind of threat we are facing now.

**Mr. Gray (Windsor West):** It only happened after you became the Government. That is when it all happened.

UNITED STATES PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO U.S. SENATOR

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It concerns the comments by Len Santos who said in the interview today that President Reagan:

—has made a "clear deal" to take action against Canadian lumber imports in return for the powerful senate finance committee giving a green light to free-trade negotiations.

What does the Minister make of the wording in President Reagan's letter to Senator Packwood in which he says:

—I intend to press for an expedited resolution to this problem independent of comprehensive negotiations.

What does that mean?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps the New Democratic Party, which prefers American authorities on this question, would like to find some other senior adviser to some committee of the United States Congress. I will indicate what we know. We know that we have, in the Quebec Accord, an undertaking from the President of the United States that his discretion will not be used to apply protectionist measures against Canadian workers. That is one guarantee that did not exist before, and that was secured by this Government.